

BOYLSTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting –June 17, 2021

Present: Judy Bottom, David Bottom, Bruce Filgate, Nancy Filgate, & Judy Haynes. **Absent:** David Cole.

Meeting called to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:15 p.m.

Bruce Filgate, chairman, called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the May minutes. It was seconded, and approved.

Treasurer : Nancy reported that we will be returning much of the remaining budget (\$8,461) to the town as COVID closure prevented high oil or electric bills, and projects could not be completed. Expected before year end: a water bill, electric bill, and a few small expenses, money for paper and ink due to printing the newsletter for the Society. The commissioners approved that expense. It was noted that at the recent Town Annual Meeting, Article 24 was passed by the voters to “appropriate a sum not to exceed \$25,000 for the purpose of renovating the Historic Society Building.” Our primary concern is a failing and not always reliable furnace may need more work or new parts.

Update on Projects: The Boylston Master Plan Steering Committee is being reassigned by the Selectmen. Nancy hopes David Cole will continue as she is the back-up to Dave. The gist of the work to date consists of assessing what the town residents would like to see happen in the town and to give a general overview of where Boylston would like to be in the future.

Artifact Archives Photographing Project continues with photos of those artifacts being highlighted in Friday’s Fascinating Finds. However, no extra or intern work can be done until the COVID restrictions are fully lifted and new hires can be trained.

The Commission continues to collaborate with the historical society, the Boylston Public Library, the library collaborative, and the Cemetery Commission. Bruce reported 3,443 memorials are being managed by the Cemetery Research Consortium.

The Boylston Historical Society held their Annual Meeting June 15, via Zoom, with a record estimated 37 attendees. Seven outstanding Tahanto young researchers spoke regarding the Civil War Veteran’s Project and acknowledged how changed they are working with documents and research websites. They stated they now have a new love of history. Those watching were so impressed by the work these young researchers completed and further observed that they gave a very professional presentation. It was so well received, BHSM will likely have similar programs in future.

Judy reported that the visit to Boylston’s historic center by Boylston’s Elementary School third grades included the Congregational Church, the public library, the Hastings Tavern, the gazebo and BHSM artifacts on the lawn. Nadine Ekstrom play acted a teacher of the 19th century, and Tim Houlihan, in Revolutionary period costume, displayed and talked about some of our historic artifacts. Nancy Filgate gave the Old Town Hall history and all groups were delightful and attentive audiences.

The Boylston Historic District Commission plans to meet on June 23rd. Several topics have come up including new windows in the Congregational Church parsonage as well as a request by a new owner to put a sign stating that his house, once Taylor Tavern, is an historic site. Since these topics fall within the jurisdiction of the Historic District in Boylston, the meeting will discuss these topics.

Hillside Restoration Project is trying to put together some new PR on what can be done at Hillside. Activities will be planned with concerts, trail runs, and other fun times. The commissioners asked if we

could put a trail map on our website. Judy will see if that can be done and have it added to:
www.hillsiderestorationproject.org.

Ongoing operations - Maintenance:

- Bruce flushed the hot water system at Old Town Hall until water ran clear. Since it is not regularly used, it was in need and recommended.
- Bruce continues to monitor the building, especially since it is only open occasionally to one or two people as a result of the shutdown caused by the virus.

New Business:

- Opening the building - protocols may take place in July or August. No exact date set.
- A call for some research and history of the Catholic Church – Dave Bottom said he could gather some information and write it up.
- One Research Project will include doing some background on the Flagg House recently used by You Inc. to see if it can be added to the National Register of Historic sites. It is now listed by the state as “culturally significant.” It was likely built by a Daniel Hastings and Abel Osgood was an early owner before Montraville Flagg’s family held it as a farm for a number of years.
- Judy noted she has filled out and agreed to continue on the Commission. Dave Cole was absent so it is not known if he has returned his form to the Selectmen.

NEXT MEETING: July 15, 2021

Respectfully submitted, Judith A. Haynes, Secretary